



## **McGregor W. Scott**

United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel (916) 554-2700  
TTY (916) 554-2855

## **NEWS RELEASE**

*Fresno*  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**March 1, 2007**

Contact: Rosemary Shaul, (916) 554-2802

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

### **MARYSVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND ILLEGAL INTERNET ACTIVITIES**

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a five-count indictment charging JEFFERY SCOTT CLOWARD, 28, of Marysville, with distributing and possessing child pornography and attempting to use the Internet to persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity. The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned on March 6, 2007, at 2:00 P.M.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the San Francisco Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Tallapoosa County Sheriff's Department in Dadeville, Alabama, as a part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). Project Safe Childhood is a United States Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the incidences of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies to enhance law enforcement's presence on the Internet, and to educate the public and children about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the chance children will fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov) or call the United States Attorney's Office

for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that CLOWARD distributed child pornography on January 3 and 11, 2007, and possessed such material as late as February 16, 2007. The indictment also alleges that CLOWARD attempted to use the Internet to persuade an individual he believed to be under eighteen to produce child pornography. According to the criminal complaint filed earlier in the case, CLOWARD was engaged in communications from September 2006 through February 16, 2007, with a Tallapoosa County Sheriff's lieutenant posing as a fourteen-year-old girl. The complaint alleges that CLOWARD, first posing as a mother of two and then as himself, engaged in sexually explicit chat with the undercover officer and proposed that "she" take sexually explicit pictures of herself and mail them to him. As part of the indictment, the government seeks to forfeit CLOWARD's desktop and laptop computers and several memory devices.

The maximum statutory penalty for each count of distributing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct is 20 years in prison, with a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years. The maximum penalty for attempting to use the Internet to persuade a minor to engage in sexual activity is 30 years in prison, also with a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years. The maximum penalty for possessing child pornography is 10 years imprisonment.

The charges are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###